

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 INR-07

CIAE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 PRS-01 PA-01 /063 W

----- 092124

P R 121451Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2994

INFO SECDEF

JCS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USCINCNAVEUR

USCINCUSAFE

19TH AF/TORREJON/CO

JUSMG/MAAG SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS - SPANISH PRESS ON ROUND 10

1. THE ATTENTION OF SPANISH PRESS TO IMPENDING ROUND 10 OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS IS THUS FAR DISTINCTLY SECONDARY TO THAT GIVEN OTHER NEWS. YET SEVERAL PRESS REPORTS ARE OF INTEREST.

2. WIRE SERVICE PYRESA (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) REPORTS WITH NEW YORK DATELINE (SEPT 11) EXISTENCE OF "TWO PREDOMINANT POSITIONS IN US POLICY." RELIABLE SOURCES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF A PREFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" WHILE A "POLITICAL SECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PREFERS TO WAIT" UNTIL AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE HOPES OF A BETTER POLITICAL DEFINITION OF THE SPANISH FUTURE. IN ANY EVENT, THE REPORT CONCLUDES, THE US GOVERNMENT IS PROFOUNDLY CONFUSED BY THE FIRM SPANISH POSTURE AND THUS IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE MORE FAVORABLE TO SPAIN THAN ITS PREDECESSORS.

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3. THE EUOPA PRESS AGENCY, IN REPORTING COMING DEPARTURE OF SPANISH DELEGATION, NOTES THAT "ON THE MARGIN OF THESE CONVERSATIONS" MINISTER CORTINA WILL BE GOING TO NEW YORK FOR THE UNGA.

4. A SOMBER SEPT 10 REVIEW BY MADRID'S DAILY "ABC" OF SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY CONCLUDES WITH REGARD TO THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS THAT AN IMPASSE HAS BEEN REACHED WHICH WILL REQUIRE STOPPING THE CLOCK UNTIL JANUARY. THE ONE YEAR WITHDRAWAL PERIOD WHICH WOULD THEN BEGIN WOULD ALLOW PRESIDENT FORD'S REELECTION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING ANEW WITH SPAIN FROM A STRONGER POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE SENATE.

5. THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "GUARDIANA" (POLITICALLY MORE CRITICAL OF GOS THAN OTHER SOURCES REPORTED HERE) NOTES THAT THE CLOCK HAS BEEN IN EFFECT STOPPED SINCE 1953 AND URGES FIRMNESS IN DEALING WITH THE US.

6. JOSE ONATO, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR FOR BARCELONA'S PRESTIGIOUS "VANGUARDIA," ATTRIBUTES TO RESPONSIBLE OBSERVERS HIS REPORT THAT THE SPANISH SIDE IS INSISTING ON A THREE YEAR AGREEMENT, VICE 5 YEARS, AND THAT THE MAIN STUMBLINGBLOCK IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THE PRICE TAG. HE POINTS AS WELL, HOWEVER, TO A US PERCEPTION OF A COOLING ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND TO US CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE TO NEW AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN STATES, "ESPECIALLY SPAIN." HE CONCLUDES THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE BASES WILL BE CLOSED.
EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID06369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750317-1083
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750954/aaaabvtc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS - SPANISH PRESS ON ROUND 10
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006